

DRAFT Catawissa Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2026



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Catawissa Conservation Area, # 7853
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1978
- **Acreage:** 199.3 acres
- **County:** Franklin
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Primary Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**
Manage for wildlife, aquatic resources, and compatible recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**
The desired future condition of Catawissa Conservation Area (CA) is forested river access with small man-made lakes and a wooded riparian buffer of the Meramec River.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**
N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** None
 - B. Natural Areas:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
 - D. Other:** Occurs in the Pacific Alluvial Plain landtype association. This landtype association consists of flat alluvial plains of the Meramec River and its tributaries before entering the Burlington Escarpment. Historically, this landtype association was timbered in bottomland forest. (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - Two parking lots
 - One concrete boat ramp

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. **Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. **Easements:** None
- D. **Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. **Endangered Species:** Endangered Species are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area Managers should consult annually with the Natural History Biologist.
- F. **Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Catawissa CA contains about 120 acres of bottomland forest and about 25 acres of upland oak woodland. The bottomland forest was once cleared for sand and gravel mining. Since then the forest has grown up over the last 35 years into an early successional mix of species such as sycamore, elm, ash, and other light-seeded species. The upland woodland is dominated by an oak overstory.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The Meramec River regularly floods this area influencing the vegetation.
- 2) Invasive species are found on the area (e.g., bush honeysuckle, tree of heaven, etc.). There is a threat of future invasive species infestations.

Management Objective 1: Maintain flood adapted forested cover on the area to minimize soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

Strategy 1: Monitor post-flood events and other disturbances to ensure trees remain established on the area. If there is significant tree mortality on the area, natural seeding or hand planting of seedlings will be used to re-establish forest on the area. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Sustain wildlife habitat and watershed protection by ensuring that native species dominate the landscape.

Strategy 1: Annually monitor for invasive species that are threatening the forest or displacing native species on the area. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: If invasive species threaten native overstory species, cut, pull, and/or utilize herbicides to control invasive plant species. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The area provides protection to the Meramec River.
- 2) Non-native species currently are found on the area (e.g., Asian carp, Asian clams, etc.). There is a threat of future non-native species invasions.

Management Objective 1: Maintain riparian corridor for protection to the Meramec River.

Strategy 1: Maintain forested riparian corridors according to Missouri Department of Conservation 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watershed to Protect Streams (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Minimize impacts from non-native aquatic plant and animal species on the area to maintain aquatic habitat and allow for a functional native aquatic community.

Strategy 1: Monitor for non-native species, and implement appropriate control measures. (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage area to limit trash, property damage, and to avoid user conflicts.
- 2) Maintain good relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 3) The area provides recreational hunting, fishing and boating opportunities.
- 4) Catawissa CA offers year-round boat access to a gravel pit lake, but only seasonal boat access the Meramec River due to sedimentation from the river into gravel pit lakes that limits boat traffic during low-water periods.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area in a manner which promotes the area's aesthetics and utility for the public.

Strategy 1: Perform routine trash pickup, paint or replace area signs, and conduct other maintenance activities. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Clear sediment and debris off boat ramp and parking lots after flood events. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Paint boundary trees and maintain signs along boundary lines every five years. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide public hunting and fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Ensure that public hunting and fishing opportunities are listed in the annual regulation booklets and signs on area. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Explore opportunities to improve boat access to the Meramec River.

Strategy 1: Assess feasibility of improving the connection of the channel pit lake to the Meramec River to increase number of days that boats can travel through the channel. (Fisheries, Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Vandalism, littering, and illegal activities occur on area.

Management Objective 1: Reduce vandalism, regulation violations, and littering.

Strategy 1: Maintain infrastructure to encourage good public stewardship. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Ensure area regulations and policies are clearly posted. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Perform regular area inspections and patrols. (Forestry, Protection)

Strategy 4: Utilize open communication with Conservation Agents about activities on the area and address issues as they are reported. (Forestry, Protection)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Public Use Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 3			X					X		

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Catawissa Conservation Area (CA) is in eastern Franklin County between Pacific and Catawissa. The area was originally acquired in 1978 and was an old gravel mining operation in the floodplain of the Meramec River. The goal of the area was originally to provide year-round access to the Meramec River. Due to sediment deposition by Meramec River flooding, the access has since changed to a seasonal access that is accessible when the river is high enough to connect the gravel pit lake where the boat ramp is located with the river.

The area is mostly forested with early successional bottomland species that have grown up since the area was initially acquired and also has about 53 acres of man-made lakes that used to be gravel mining pits in which the water level is controlled by the Meramec River.

This property provides boat- and bank-fishing access to the several small man-made lakes as well as seasonal boat access to the Meramec River during periods of elevated water levels on the river.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Bottomland forest	120.3		60
Man-made lakes	53.0		27
Woodland	25.2		13
Other – parking lot and boat ramp	0.8		<1
Total	199.3		100
Frontage on the Meramec River		2,180	

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Figure 1: Area Map

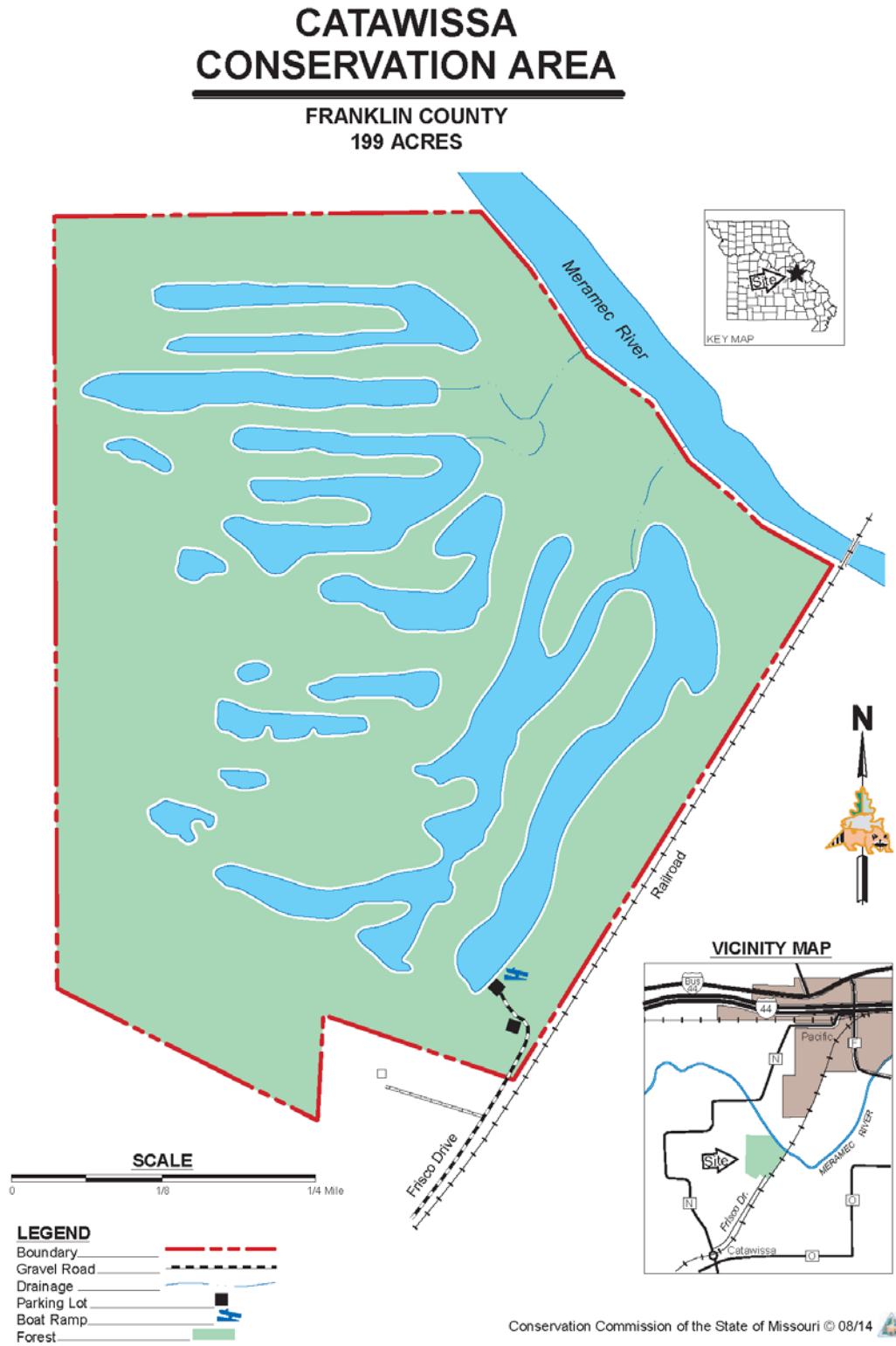


Figure 2: Aerial Map

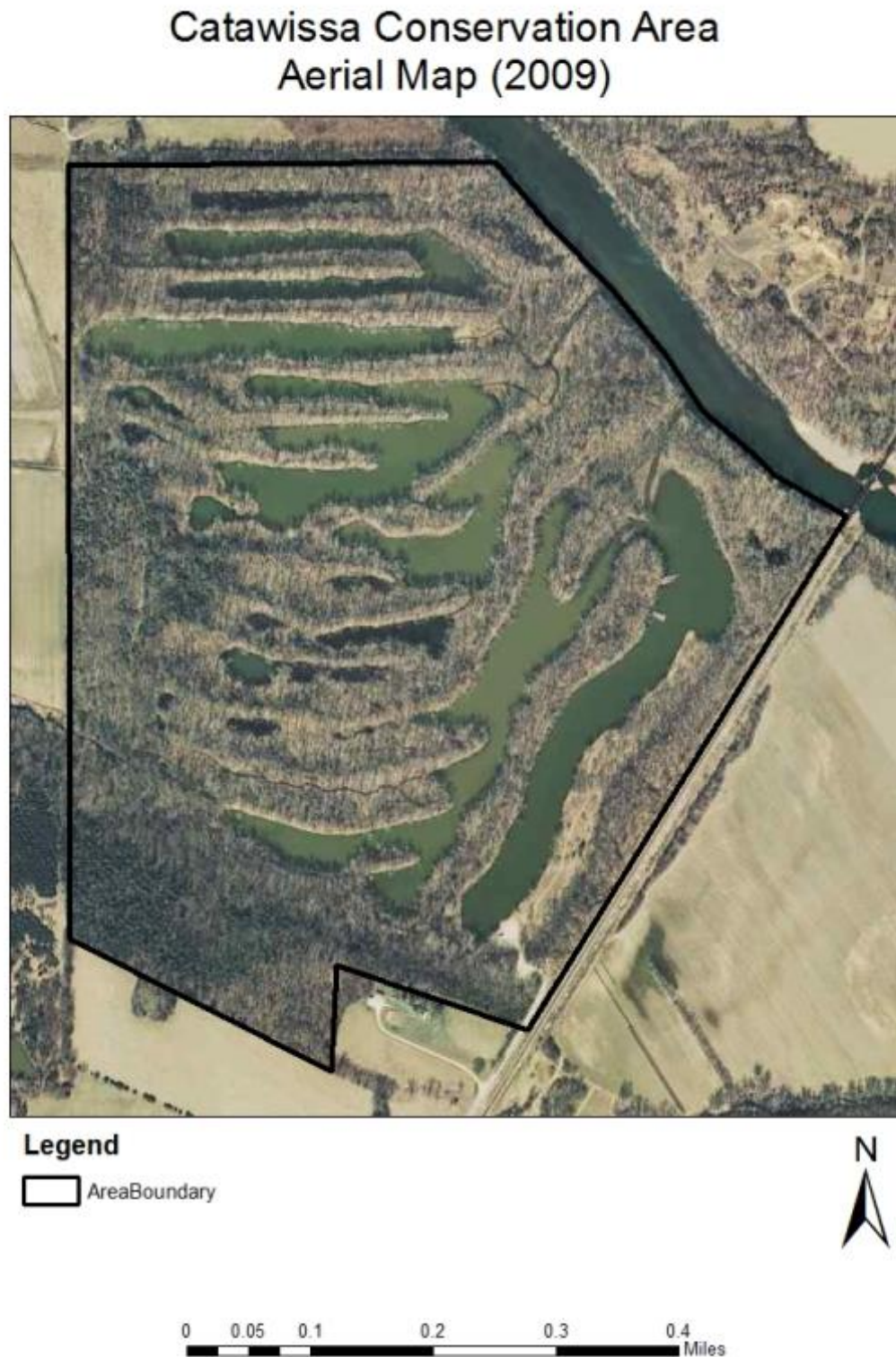


Figure 3: Topographic Map

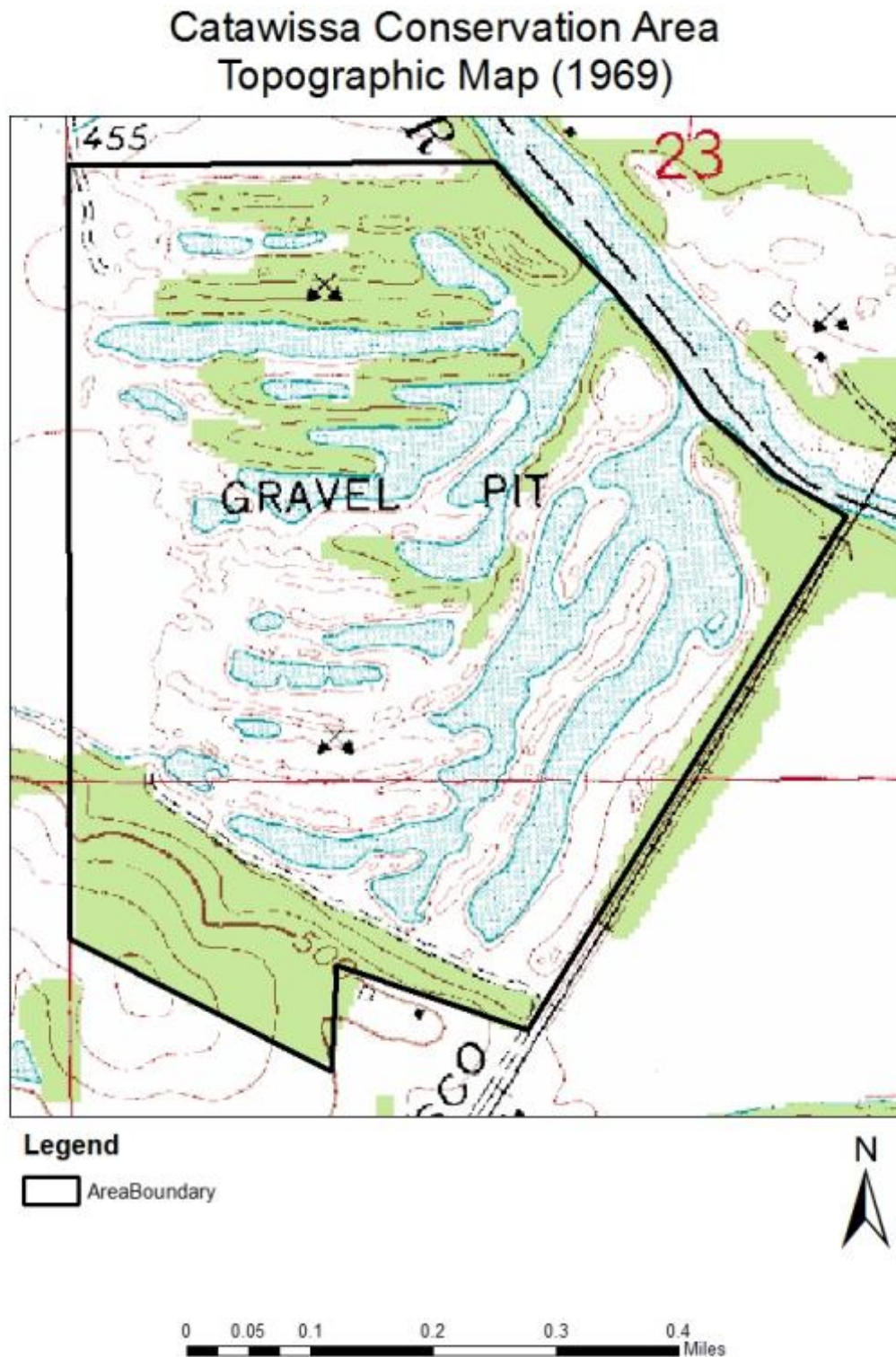


Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map



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